

The Watchman and Southern.

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The Sumter Watchman was founded in 1850 and the True Southern in 1865. The Watchman and Southern now has the combined circulation and influence of both of the old papers, and is manifestly the best advertising medium in Sumter.

The two men who shall be elected to fill the vacancies in the Sumter county delegation in the House of Representatives will have only a short time to serve—perhaps not more than a week or ten days—if the Legislature adheres to its present plan to finish all important business as speedily as possible and adjourn early in February. If they are to be of any service to their constituents they must be men who have some knowledge of legislative procedure and experience in the work of the House. A green man no matter how able, cannot fall immediately into the work and accomplish results. In Mr. R. B. Belser Sumter has one man who has had the requisite experience, and although he voluntarily retired after serving two terms, having declined to offer for reelection at the last election, it seems fitting that he should be called upon to accept one of the vacant seats in the House. He can be of service to the county when service is needed, and he should be willing to lay aside personal interests for a few weeks to serve the people who honored him with election to the legislature when he sought their suffrage in the primary.

The members of the County Board of Commissioners are to be commended for the prompt and gracious manner in which they rectified the mistake they had made when they recommended the withdrawal of the appropriation heretofore made for the support of the Home Demonstration work in Sumter county. Without a full understanding of the scope and value of the work that has been done by Miss Mary Lemmon and her assistants during the past five years this work not having come directly within their official purview, and not having made a personal investigation of the work among those who have profited by the instruction of these educational agents, they had unfortunately arrived at the erroneous conclusion that the work was not practical nor profitable. Having been convinced by the testimony of those most directly interested and having been shown that a very large number of taxpayers in all sections of the county not only demanded the continuance of the work but are willing to pay whatever is necessary to properly maintain it and extend its usefulness, the members of the County Board immediately rescinded their action and included in the annual budget of the county the full amount needed to supplement the federal funds available. The Home Demonstration work in Sumter this year will cost \$2,540—the county appropriation of \$1,500 and the Federal fund of \$1,040—besides the office rent of \$120, which is provided for by the County Board of Education. In matters of this kind it is always safe to appeal directly to the people to ascertain what they want, and when their wishes are made known it is not difficult to arrive at a just and wise adjustment of differences of opinion. It was on this basis that the proposed discontinuance of the Home Demonstration work was handled and the settlement of the disagreement that has been arrived at is thoroughly satisfactory to all concerned.

Annapolis Examination Soon.

Columbia, Jan. 10.—By direction of Senator Tillman, there will be a competitive examination to fill a vacancy at Annapolis Friday, Jan. 18. The examination will begin at 9 o'clock in room No. 8, Davis College, University of South Carolina. Subjects for examination will be those regularly required for entrance to the naval academy: English grammar, including composition and spelling, geography, United States history, arithmetic, algebra, geometry and world history.

Prospective candidates may obtain specimen examinations by writing to Senator B. R. Tillman, chairman naval committee, Washington, D. C. Applicants should be in sound health and are requested to bring a physician's certificate. The examination is open to any young man, a resident of the State between the ages of 16 and 20 years. Inquiries should be addressed to Prof. J. Bruce Coleman, department of mathematics, University of South Carolina.

COUNTY BOARD MEETING.

Board of County Commissioners Adopt Annual Budget for 1918 and Estimate Shows That It Will Not Be Necessary to Increase Levy for County Purposes.

The County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, the regular monthly meeting having been postponed from January 1st. Present, Supervisor White and Commissioners Britton, Lenoir, McLaurin, Oliver and Mimms. Mr. H. D. Tindal, chairman of a committee from the County Council of Defense appeared with the committee and presented resolutions adopted by the Council of Defense requesting the reconsideration of the action of the County Board refusing to recommend an appropriation of \$1,500 for the continuation of the Home Demonstration Work in Sumter county. Mr. Tindal, Miss Edith Parrott, State Supervisor of Home Demonstration work, and the members of the committee from the Council of Defense and Home Demonstration clubs of the county endorsed the work that has been done in the county by the home demonstration agents and gave facts and figures to prove that the work has been and is of the greatest practical value to the county and has been worth in dollars and cents and in many other ways many times what it has cost. Rev. William Haynsworth presented resolutions adopted by the Chamber of Commerce endorsing the Home Demonstration work and requesting the appropriation needed for its support during 1918.

At the afternoon session Miss Parrott, Miss Lemmon and Mr. Tindal were recalled and after further discussion the board decided to rescind its former action and to include in the county budget for 1918 an appropriation of \$1,500 for the Home Demonstration work, the condition being made that the county agents file with the board each month a report of the work. This was readily agreed to by Miss Parrott, who stated that a duplicate of the report made to Winthrop College and Washington would be made to the County Board.

Rev. William Haynsworth presented a petition from citizens of Privateer for the construction of a new road in that township that has long been needed in that section of the county. The request was taken under advisement and Messrs. White, Britton and McLaurin were appointed a committee to investigate and report back to the board.

Mr. E. W. Dabbs presented a petition for the construction of three and a-half miles of new road in Mayesville and Shiloh townships to complete a short route to the lower part of Shiloh township in Sumter county and to Turbeville in Clarendon county. He stated the reasons why the new road should be built and urged that it be built as soon as possible. The request was referred to a committee consisting of Messrs. White, Oliver and Mimms to investigate and report back to the board.

Messrs. H. A. Moses, E. S. Booth, R. B. Belser and E. I. Reardon made arguments in favor of Sumter county cooperating with the State Highway Commission in building bridges and causeways on the Santee river and at Pinckney's Landing and Lenoir's ferry to open direct communication with Charleston and the western part of the State.

Messrs. W. L. Saunders, A. C. Phelps, J. F. Williams and Dr. Walter Cheyne spoke in favor of the construction of the causeway and establishment of a ferry at the old Garner's Ferry crossing on the Wateree to open a direct road to Columbia. The board deferred action until further investigation has been made and more information can be obtained. A committee of the board will go to Columbia Friday to consult with the Richland county board in respect to the Garner's Ferry crossing. Messrs. White, Britton and McLaurin compose this committee.

It was decided to increase the salary of the Clerk of the Board to \$1,500 per annum.

The salary of the City of Sumter magistrate was increased to \$800; the salaries of the chain-gang guards were increased to \$60 per month.

Commissioner Britton reported that he had seen the scales at the cotton weigher's platform tested and that they were found to be accurate.

Public Weigher P. M. Pitts presented a request from the public weighers that the fee for weighing cotton be increased on account of the greater expense of operating—labor being scarce and high. The request was refused for two reasons: The compensation now received by the weighers being deemed adequate for the service rendered, each of the weighers receiving not less than \$1,200 per year, for about nine months work, and for the further reason that to increase the charge for weighing cotton would probably have a bad effect upon the local market.

Supervisor White was directed to employ a suitable man to succeed Superintendent Barksdale of the chain-

gang, who will soon leave the service of the county.

It was ordered that a penalty of one-half months salary be imposed upon any guard who is responsible for the escape of a convict.

An appropriation of \$10 a month was made for the support of W. L. Fate and wife, and the same sum per month was appropriated for the support of W. J. Brunson and family. An additional appropriation of \$10 per month was made the Charity League for the support of J. W. Thames and others.

Dr. C. H. Andrews was elected County Physician. He agrees to visit patients in the jail for 50 cents for one patient, no charge being made for prescription, and 35 cents for each additional prescription; Alms House, \$1 for two patients, 25 cents for each additional prescription; Chan Gang, \$1 when within two miles of city, and 35 cents for each additional prescription, when more than two miles from city, 20 cents per mile for additional miles and 35 cents for each additional prescription; Hospital cases, 25 cents for each visit. A committee was appointed to see Dr. Andrews in respect to making his charges more definite and specific.

The annual budget for 1918 was read and adopted. The estimated necessary income of the county will not require an increase in the tax levy for county purposes. The levy for 1917 was 6 1-2 mills.

The board then adjourned.

MAGNA CHARTA OF PEACE.

English Press Highly Praise Wilson's Speech.

London, Jan. 9.—President Wilson's speech takes the leading place in both the news and editorial columns of the London press. One newspaper describes it as the "magna charta of future peace." Evening papers find no disagreement in essential policy between it and Premier Lloyd George's recent speech.

The Westminster Gazette welcomes President Wilson's "careful, sympathetic language" and hopes "all misunderstandings which may arise from other statements will be removed by the unequivocal language in which the president adopts the Russian demands as his own."

CRITICISE GEORGE'S SPEECH.

German Socialist Organ Finds Fault With Part That Appeals to Workmen.

Berlin, Tuesday, Jan. 8.—Vorwaerts, the principal organ of the Socialists, commenting on Premier Lloyd George's speech, declares that the premier masqueraded in a carefully selected disguise. It says his speech was framed in some parts to meet the approval of German workmen. It adds that his restoration of territory ideals have not called forth any contradictions.

BONE DRY VIRGINIA.

Prohibition Legislation Most Important Matter of Legislative Session.

Richmond, Va., Jan. 9.—Prohibition legislation, which includes ratification of the proposed federal amendment, is expected to be the most important matter before the legislature which convened today. The effort will be made to make the State "bone dry."

FIRE IN CHICAGO.

Four Firemen Killed and Four Fatally Injured.

Chicago, Jan. 9.—Four firemen were killed and four were probably fatally injured early today when the walls of a moving picture theatre collapsed while firemen were fighting the blaze. Several hundred spectators in the street had a narrow escape.

London, Jan. 9.—The hospital ship Rewa, seventy-three hundred tons was torpedoed and sunk in the British channel January 4th, while returning from Gibraltar. It is announced officially. The wounded were saved, but there were three casualties among the crew. The official statement says she was "displaying all lights and markings required by the Hague convention," and had not been in the so-called barred zone.

Washington, Jan. 9.—Woman suffrage won another point in the house today when the rules committee decided that the new suffrage committee, not the judiciary committee, should have charge of the woman suffrage constitutional amendment resolution when it comes to a vote tomorrow.

Washington, Jan. 9.—Nine men of the crew of the American steamer Harry Luckenbach, which was torpedoed and sunk January 6th, are still missing, the navy department announced today. The statement is based on the report of Admiral Sims which states that twenty-two members of the crew have been rescued.

WAR EXCESS PROFITS TAX.

Collector Heyward Tells How to Calculate It.

Columbia, Jan. 4.—The following is prepared by D. C. Heyward, collector of internal revenue, Columbia, S. C., as information to those who may be interested:

Under title 2, of the act of October 3, 1917, there is imposed upon corporations, joint stock companies, partnerships and individuals a tax known as the war excess profits tax.

It is intended by this title, under section 201, to impose a tax only upon that portion of the net earnings of a corporation, joint stock company, partnership or individual for the year 1917 and subsequent years, as exceed the average net earnings for the three pre-war years, namely, 1911, 1912 and 1913, upon a like invested capital or up the same ratio as the average net earnings bear to the invested capital (but in no case to be less than 7 per cent nor more than 9 per cent upon the capital invested), plus a specific deduction of \$3,000 for a corporation or joint stock company, and the sum of \$6,000 for a domestic partnership or individual. This is to say, if the average net earnings for the three pre-war years were less than 7 per cent upon the invested capital for those years and the net earnings for 1917 were in excess of the average earnings for the three pre-war years but were not in excess of 7 per cent of the invested capital, there would be no tax liability.

If the average net earnings for the three pre-war years was 9 per cent upon the invested capital and the net earnings for 1917 do not exceed 9 per cent upon the invested capital, there would be no tax liability. However, if the average net earnings for the three pre-war years were 15 per cent upon the invested capital and the net earnings for 1917 amounted to 15 per cent upon the invested capital, there would be a tax liability upon the graduated scale prescribed in the law upon that portion of the net earnings exceeding 9 per cent upon the specific reduction allowed by law. That is to say, no tax will be imposed under this section where the net earnings are less than 7 per cent upon the invested capital for that year, but will be imposed in all cases where the net earnings exceed 9 per cent upon the invested capital for 1917. In all cases where the net earnings are between 7 per cent and 9 per cent in 1917 upon the invested capital, the tax liability will depend upon the fact as to whether the average net earnings for the three pre-war years were in excess of the percentage shown in 1917, or less than the percentages shown. If it is shown that the percentage of earnings on invested capital was greater than the percentage shown for 1917 between 7 and 9 per cent upon the invested capital, then there will be no tax imposed. But, if it is shown that the earnings for 1917 are between 7 per cent and 9 per cent and greater than the average per cent earned on invested capital in the three pre-war years, a tax will be imposed on the excess for 1917, less the specific deduction. Or, in case of a corporation, joint stock company, partnership or individual may so select, they can use 7 per cent on invested capital for 1917 as a basis for applying the excess profits tax instead of arriving at a comparative statement between the three pre-war years and the calendar year 1917.

"Invested capital" is construed to mean so much of the capital, surplus and undivided profits (earned prior to January 1, 1917) as are used or employed in the business in earning the net income reported for 1917. There may be decisions later from the department pertaining to this particular question.

Section 201 of the act of October 3, 1917, imposes the following tax on excess profits:

Bracket 1.—Twenty per cent of the amount of the net income in excess of the deduction (determined as herein-after provided) and not in excess of 15 per cent of the invested capital for the taxable year.

Bracket 2.—Twenty-five per cent of the amount of the net income in excess of 15 per cent and not in excess of 20 per cent of such capital.

Bracket 3.—Thirty-five per cent of the amount of the net income in excess of 20 per cent, and not in excess of 25 per cent of such capital.

Bracket 4.—Forty-five per cent of the amount of the net income in excess of 25 per cent, and not in excess of 33 per cent of such capital.

Bracket 5.—Sixty per cent of the amount of the net income in excess of 33 per cent of such capital.

The following example is given in concrete form so as to show how the above rates would apply:

A corporation is engaged in the manufacturing business with a capital of \$20,000, surplus \$5,000 and undivided profits (earned prior to January 1, 1917, of \$5,000, making the total invested capital \$30,000. They were engaged in business during the three pre-war years with the same invest-

ed capital. In the three pre-war years they have averaged a net income of \$5,000. In 1917, their net income amounts to \$12,000. How much war excess profits should they pay?

Fifteen per cent of \$30,000 is \$4,500. The deduction is ascertained by taking only 9 per cent of \$30,000 for the three pre-war years, or \$2,700 as the profit for those years exceed 9 per cent. So \$2,700, plus the specific deduction of \$3,000, makes a total deduction of \$5,700. This applied to the first bracket or \$4,500, would make no tax under the first bracket. The total calculation follows:

Fifteen per cent of \$30,000 is \$4,500 less the deduction, \$5,700. Bracket 1 nothing to be taxed at 20 per cent.

Twenty per cent of \$30,000 is \$6,000 less the deduction, \$5,700. Bracket 2, 300 to be taxed at 25 per cent, or \$75.

Twenty-five per cent of \$30,000 is \$7,500; less 20 per cent already taxed \$6,000. Bracket 3, \$1,500 to be taxed at 35 per cent, or \$525.

Thirty-three per cent of \$30,000 is \$9,900; less 25 per cent already taxed \$7,500. Bracket 4, \$2,400 to be taxed at 45 per cent, or \$1,080.

Total earnings for 1917, \$12,000; less 33 per cent already taxed, \$9,900. Bracket 5, \$2,100 taxed at 60 per cent, or \$1,260.

Total war excess profits taxes to be paid, \$2,940.

An individual or partnership engaged in the same business as the above corporation, with the same invested capital, and the same net income, would pay the following tax:

Invested capital \$30,000, 9 per cent of which is \$2,700, which represents the limit for the deduction. To this should be added the specific exemption of \$6,000, allowed by law, making the total exemption and deduction of \$8,700.

Fifteen per cent of \$30,000 is \$4,500 less the deduction \$8,700. Bracket 1 nothing to be taxed at 20 per cent.

Twenty per cent of \$30,000 is \$6,000 less the deduction, \$8,700. Bracket 2 nothing to be taxed at 25 per cent.

Twenty-five per cent of \$30,000 is \$7,500; less the deduction, \$8,700. Bracket 3, nothing to be taxed at 35 per cent.

Thirty-three per cent of \$30,000 is \$9,900; less the deduction, \$8,700. Bracket 4, \$1,200 taxed at 45 per cent or tax of \$540.

Total net income, \$12,000; less 33 per cent already taxed, \$9,900. Bracket 5, \$2,100 taxed at 60 per cent, or tax of \$1,260.

Total excess profits taxes to be paid \$1,000.

In cases of no invested capital or not more than a nominal invested capital, the following is provided under section 209:

"That in the case of a trade or business having no invested capital or no more than a nominal capital there shall be levied, assessed, collected, and paid, in addition to the taxes under existing law and under this act, in lieu of the tax imposed by section 201, a tax equivalent to 8 per cent of the net income of such trade or business in excess of the following deductions: In the case of a domestic corporation, \$3,000, and in the case of a domestic partnership or a citizen or resident of the United States, \$6,000, in the case of all other trades or businesses, no deductions.

WHY IT IS NECESSARY TO EAT LESS WHEAT BREAD:

France, Great Britain, Italy and Belgium must now import 60 per cent of their breadstuffs, instead of the 40 per cent, which they imported before the war.

America must supply the greater part of this need. To send them the least that they can live on, we must increase our export of wheat from 88,000,000 bushels to 220,000,000 bushels.

We have already exported the whole of the surplus of the 1917 harvest, over and above the normal demands of our own population. Therefore all exports of wheat from now forward are limited entirely to the saving made by the American people in their consumption of wheat and wheat products.

HOW YOU CAN HELP.

Have at least one meal a day without wheat bread. Use instead corn, oat, rye, barley, or mixed cereal breads. Eat less cake and pastry. Order wheat bread from your baker at least 24 hours in advance, so that he will not bake too much. Cut the loaf of wheat bread on the table. Use all stale bread for toast or cooking.

Gen. Pershing, however, should not be accused of German frightfulness simply because he has put his foot down on the soldier's godmother.—Daily Oklahoman.

INCOME TAX RETURNS.

Federal Income Tax Officer Will Be in Sumter January 21st to 26th to Assist in Making Out Returns.

In a communication received by this paper, D. C. Heyward, collector of internal revenue, Columbia, announces that a federal income tax officer will be sent into this county on January 21st and will be here until January 26th. Information as to where this officer will have his headquarters can be obtained from the postmaster, or any of the bankers. He will be willing to help persons subject to the income tax make out their returns without any cost to them for his services.

Returns of income for the year 1917 must be made on forms provided for the purpose before March 1st, 1918. Because a good many people do not understand the law, and won't know how to make out their returns, the government is sending in this expert to do it for them. But the duty is on the taxpayer to make himself known to the government. If a person does not make return on or before March 1st, 1918, penalties as provided by law will be incurred. If you are not sure about being subject to the tax you had better see the income tax man while he is here, and make sure. Whether you see the income tax man or not you must make return if subject to the tax.

Persons resident in other counties may, if they want to, come and see the income tax man who will be here.

D. C. Heyward, collector of internal revenue, suggests that everybody start figuring up at once his income and expenses so as to be ready with the figures when the expert arrives. Expenses, however, do not mean family expenses, money used to pay off the principal of a debt, new machinery, buildings, or anything like that. They mean what you spend in making your money—interest, taxes paid, hired help, amount paid for goods sold, seed, stock bought for feeding. Income includes about every dollar you get.

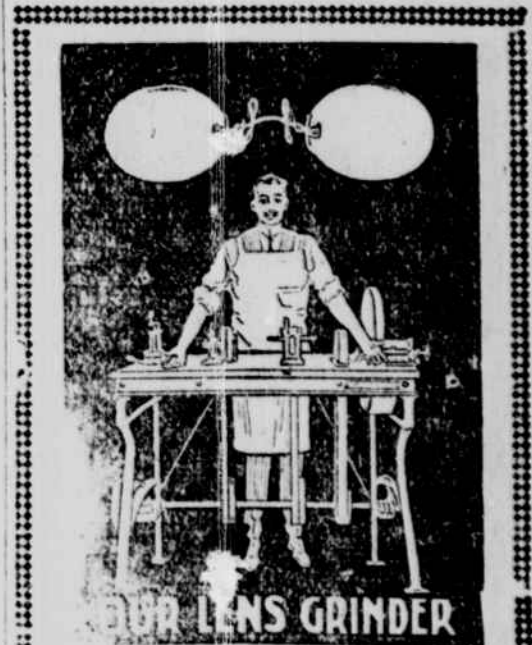
London, Jan. 9.—A further extension of the submarine barred zone is announced in a wireless statement by the German government. It becomes operative January 11th. The zone includes the Cape Verde Islands and Madeira, off the northwestern coast of Africa, and part of the coast of French Senegal. These regions are alleged to be "enemy supporting points."

Paris, Tuesday, Jan. 8.—By a surprise attack east of St. Mihiel today the French troops penetrated on nearly a mile front. After demolishing German positions they returned to their own lines with one hundred and fifty prisoners, and some machine guns, says the official statement.

Washington, Jan. 9.—Cotton ginned prior to January 1st amounted to 10,450,491, exclusive of linters. Included in this total were 184,510 round (counted as half) bales, \$6,813 sea island. The State of South Carolina reports 1,146,000 bales.

Washington, Jan. 9.—A general readjustment of the country's complicated rate system to fit the new non-competitive situation will be one of the early outgrowths of government railroad operation, it was officially indicated today. Many readjustments are considered inevitable and they will involve material increases in rates.

Philadelphia, Jan. 9.—Two steamers carrying nearly thirteen million pounds of Cuban sugar arrived here today.



We Grind Lenses, examine the eyes scientifically and fit eye-glasses perfectly. Let us work for you.

We have all prescriptions on file. Broken lenses replaced promptly. Graduate Optometrist and Optician in charge.

W. A. Thompson,
JEWELER & OPTOMETRIST.